

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for modifying a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server configuration for a dynamically configured system within a network, comprising:

receiving a request from a first system to register for a lease time modification privilege at a daemon of said DHCP server, wherein said first system is an installation server for installing software on at least one dynamically configured system independent from said DHCP server, wherein said daemon of said DHCP server allows a plurality of systems to each register for at least one of a plurality of types of modification privileges at said DHCP server;

responsive to said first system qualifying for modification privileges, storing by said daemon a record of said registration at said DHCP server for authenticating any modify packets received from said first system;

receiving a first modify packet from [[a]] said first system [[at a]] by said daemon of said DHCP server which manages a stored configuration file specifying a dynamic internet protocol (IP) address for [[a]] said dynamically configured system, wherein said first modify packet requests an extension of a lease time of said dynamic IP address for said dynamically configured system for a duration of an installation on said dynamically configured system by said first system; and

responsive to said daemon confirming said first system as registered with said DHCP server, modifying by a service controller of said DHCP server said stored configuration file for said dynamically configured system according to said first modify packet received from said first system, such that said first system is enabled to request modification of said a-DHCP-server-configuration file for [[a]] said dynamically configured system to maintain a same address for said dynamically configured system

during said installation and said DHCP server controls the modification of said configuration file.

Claim 2-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1 for modifying a DHCP configuration, wherein receiving a first modify packet from a first system further comprises:

receiving said first modify packet from said first system, wherein said modify packet specifies one from among a DHCP client, class and network, a particular option from among a plurality of DHCP options, and a value to assigned to said particular option.

Claims 6-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Newly Added): The method according to claim 1 for modifying a DHCP configuration, further comprising:

receiving a second request from a second system to register for a second lease time modification privilege at said daemon of said DHCP server, wherein said second system maintains a database of a plurality of host computers and a separate IP address associated with each host computer and maintains a plurality of media access control (MAC) addresses for identifying each node in a network least one dynamically configured system independent from said DHCP server;

responsive to said second system qualifying for modification privileges, storing by said daemon a second record of said registration at said DHCP server for authenticating any modify packets received from said second system;

receiving a second modify packet from said second system by said daemon of said DHCP server which manages a stored configuration file comprising a plurality of hostnames each matched to a separate MAC address, wherein said second modify packet requests updating a particular host name assigned to a particular MAC address in said stored configuration file;

responsive to said daemon confirming said second system as registered with said DHCP server, modifying by said service controller of said DHCP server said stored configuration file for said particular MAC address according to said second modify packet received from said second system.